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### Men's BB at Bozeman

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1/23/79  
state, Big Sky, basketball

MEN'S BB AT BOZEMAN  
guffey/jg

MISSOULA--

- GAME DATE: The University of Montana basketball team will try to remain in second place in the Big Sky Conference this Saturday, when they travel to Bozeman, January 27th. Tipoff is 8 p.m.
- PRELIM. GAME: Coach Scott Hollenbeck's JV team will face the MSU junior varsity, with game time slated at 5:30 p.m. UM's JV team is 6-5.
- RADIO: Grizzly Bill Schwanke of KYLT-AM Radio will call the play-by-play with pregame beginning at 15 minutes prior to tipoff of the varsity game.
- RECORDS: The Grizzlies are 4-2 in the Big Sky, and 11-7 overall; while the Bobcats are 2-4 and 10-7. MSU is currently in fifth place in the BSC, but still a contender for a playoff berth.
- SERIES RECORD: This will be the 205th meeting between the two Montana schools. The 'Cats hold a 116-88 advantage. However, UM has swept the series the last two years, and won 9 of the last 10 meetings. MSU won both games in the 1972-73 season (70-65 and 53-52).
- LAST YEAR: UM defeated the Bobcats 74-58 in Bozeman, with Allan Nielsen leading the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. The Grizzlies won the game in Missoula, 65-57, with M.R. Richardson scoring 25 points and John Stroeder hauling down 14 rebounds.
- COACHES: Both UM coach Mike Montgomery and MSU's Bruce Haroldson are in their initial seasons at their respective schools. Montgomery's teams are 9-1 at home and 2-6 on the road.
- Haroldson comes to MSU from Mesa State College, where he is head coach for four seasons. His teams were 85-32 there.
- PROBABLE STARTERS:
- |     | MSU   |
|-----|---|
| G-- | Craig Finberg, 6-1, Sr. (16.7 ppg)            |
| G-- | Mick Durham, 5-10, Jr. (10.4 ppg)             |
| C-- | Rod Smith, 6-8, Sr. (11.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg)       |
| F-- | Leroy Moreno, 6-6, Jr. (10.0 ppg, 6.5 rpg)    |
| F-- | Arnold McDowell, 6-4, Jr. (17.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg) |
- 
- |     | MONTANA                                      |
|-----|--|
| G-- | Blaine Taylor, 6-1, So. (5.4 ppg)            |
| G-- | Craig Zanon, 6-6, So. (6.2 ppg)              |
| C-- | John Stroeder, 6-10, Jr. (13.8 ppg, 8.0 rpg) |
| F-- | Allan Nielsen, 6-6, Sr. (14.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg)  |
| F-- | Craig Henkel, 6-7, Sr. (19.10 ppg, 4.3 rpg)  |

- FAST START:** MSU had seven straight wins before losing to LSU 99-89. 10 of MSU's first 12 games were at home. The 'Cats have lost five of their last six games.
- The Griz have won five of their last seven, and the three-game winning streak they are on right now ties the season mark for number of straight wins.
- LAST WEEK:** UM stayed in the thick of the BSC playoff berth race with wins over Idaho State (70-55) and Boise State (61-50); while MSU defeated Boise State, but lost to Idaho State. The Bobcats have lost two conference games at home, while the Grizzlies are 4-0 in Adams Field House in conference.
- NIELSEN HOT:** Senior forward Al Nielsen, from Westby, Montana, scored 64 points in UM's three victories last week. The 6-6 second team BSC player of last season scored 25 against both Air Force and Idaho State and 14 in the win over Boise State. He narrowly missed being chosen as the Big Sky Player of the Week, finishing second in the balloting.
- BIG SKY STATS:** The teams have contrasting offenses. MSU leads the conference in scoring (77 a game); while UM leads the BSC in defense (56.7).
- Individually, MSU's Arnold McDowell is second in scoring at 17.4, followed by Craig Finberg at 17.1. Al Nielsen is 8th (14.6) and John Stroeder is 11th (13.6). MSU is the only team which has all five starters in the top 28 scorers in the conference.
- Stroeder is 5th in rebounding at 8.0, while Leroy Moreno is 7th at 6.8. Finberg leads the league in assists (5.8).
- NATIONAL STATS:** NCAA stats have not been released yet, but UM should be in the top five in the nation defensively with its 56.7 average.
- NEXT WEEK:** UM will hit the road again, playing Idaho in Moscow on February 2, and at Gonzaga, February 3. They will return home February 9-10 to host Weber State and Northern Arizona.

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